

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TANANA 00303 231531Z

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ACTION SS-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05 EB-03

L-01 /033 W

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P 201030Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6961

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0303

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, MA, US

LIMDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM MENDENHALL

REFS: TANANARIVE 0301 AND 0302

1. I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU ARE, BUT, RECALLING OUR TALK LAST DECEMBER WHEN I WAS IN WASHINGTON, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TWO REFTELS TO YOUR ATTENTION.

2. I BELIEVE EVENTS IN MADAGASCAR HAVE NOW OFFERED US RARE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE MAJOR U.S. INTERESTS IF WE PREPARED TO ACT AND ACT QUICKLY.

3. WITH EXTREME CLOSENESS OF LATEST VOTES ON KHMER REPRESENTATION AT UNGA AND ON "PRG" SEATING AT LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE, I ASSUME IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO U.S. TO REDUCE SUPPORT FOR OTHER SIDE AND, IF POSSIBLE, BRING PREVIOUSLY ADVERSE VOTE ALL WAY OVER TO OUR SIDE. ALSO, WITH DEVELOPMENT OF SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA AND PROBABLE FURTHER CLOSING OF INDIAN OCEAN PORTS TO U.S. NAVAL VESSELS, I ASSUME THAT, IN VIEW OF GROWTH OF U.S. INTEREST IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA,, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TRY BRING MADAGASCAR AROUND AS FAR AS POSSIBLE ON INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS.

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4. IF DEPT CONSIDERS THESE OBJECTIVES WORTH THE U.S. SUPPORT I HAVE PROPOSED FOR MADAGASCAR, I BELIEVE THAT, IF WE ACT FAST WHILE OPPORTUNITY STILL EXISTS, WE SHOULD BE ABLE REGISTER SUBSTANTIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FURTHERANCE OF U.S. INTERESTS.

5. WHILE I BELIEVE U.S. ACTIONS I PROPOSE VIS-A-VIS MADAGASCAR SUPPORT U.S. INTERESTS IN POSITIVE SENSE, I ALSO BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT NEGLECT DEFENDING U.S. INTERESTS FROM NEGATIVE SOVIET AND PRC MOVES. UNFASHIONABLE AS IT MAY BE DURING TIME OF DETENTE, I DO NOT BELIEVE MY SOVIET AND PRC COLLEAGUES ON THIS ISLAND ARE GOING TO SIT ON THEIR HANDS. SOVIET AMBASSADOR, IN PARTICULAR, IS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVIST FROM HIS DAYS IN CUBA.
MENDENHALL

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